

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace, without prejudice, all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 to 11 (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling a piezoelectric actuator, comprising:  
performing a voltage detection at a specified time of a voltage applied to the piezoelectric actuator in order to produce a detected voltage; and  
if a certain variable is present, blocking at least one of the voltage detection and a relaying of the detected voltage value.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the detected voltage value is used for at least one of monitoring and forming a controlled variable.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the blocking is performed as a function of a fuel pressure.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the blocking is carried out as a function of a variable that characterizes an interval between a time the voltage is measured and ~~an~~ ~~of~~ at least one of a charging operation and a discharging operation of the piezoelectric actuator.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the blocking is carried out as a function of a triggering duration of the piezoelectric actuator.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the blocking is carried out as a function of a charging time of the piezoelectric actuator.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the blocking is carried out as a function of a difference between a triggering duration and a charging time of the piezoelectric actuator.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the blocking is carried out as a function of a delivery duration of a final control element operated by the piezoelectric actuator.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein in the event of blocking, the last non-blocked voltage value is used for at least one of a closed-loop control and monitoring.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein in the event of blocking, the last manipulated variable used prior to blocking is used for open-loop control.

22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for controlling a piezoelectric actuator, comprising:

an arrangement for performing a voltage detection at a specified time of a voltage applied to the piezoelectric actuator in order to produce a detected voltage; and

an arrangement for, if a certain variable is present, blocking at least one of the voltage detection and a relaying of the detected voltage value.